

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 are amendment. Claim 7 is amended to avoid the claim objection from paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Reconsideration in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

This amendment replaces the Amendment filed on June 1, 2009, incorporated herein by reference.

As requested in the June 1 Amendment, Applicants request the Examiner to provide return a fully initially copy of the PTO/SB/08a filed on January 4, 2006.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Aida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,445,249) in view of Besson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,705,982). Further, claims 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Aida et al., in view of Besson et al., and further in view of Wood (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0134733). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to dynamic vibration absorber comprising a plurality of vertically mounted U-shaped leaf springs which are interposed between the frame body and the weight so as to hold the weight with respect to the frame body movably with respect to all directions in a plane and immovably in a vertical direction perpendicular to the plane and so as to determine a natural frequency for the weight.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Besson et al. teach in Figure 1 the use of U-shaped leaf springs used to damp movement of a weight 2, 3 within a frame 10. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assessment of Besson et al. In particular, Besson et al. makes no mention of U-shaped leaf springs in its disclosure. Rather, as clearly shown in Figures 5-8, Besson et al. teaches the use of a wire spring. See also, the description in column 5, lines

37-60 which indicate various portions of the spring to fit within grooves, which is consistent with the description of a wire spring, not a leaf spring as claimed.

Thus, the premise of the Examiner's rejection is flawed in that Besson et al. does not in the first instance teach or suggest the use of U-shaped leaf springs. More specifically, the Examiner's proposed substitution of the wire springs in Besson et al. for the arrangement in Aida et al. would be inappropriate according to Applicants, because, for example, it is difficult to hold the weight immovably in a vertical direction using the wire springs in Besson et al.

In addition, the combination of bearings 8 and receptacles 9 disclosed in Aida et al. only hold the weight portion 1 movably with respect to all directions in a plane and immovably in a vertical direction perpendicular to the plane. The bearings and receptacles in Aida et al. do not determine a natural frequency for the weight portion (claim 1) and do not include a dynamic vibration absorber tuned to a natural frequency of a structure where said dynamic vibration absorber is installed (claim 9) because bearings 8 and receptacles 9 do not have a resiliency with respect to all directions in a plane. While the wire springs in Besson et al. and the dynamic absorber in Wood may teach tuning to a natural frequency, both Besson et al. and Wood rely on resiliency to create the natural frequency tuning effect. Applicants respectfully submit that the arrangement in Aida et al. is purposely made without resiliency, such that it would not be amenable to tuning as taught by Wood.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith

SHIMODA et al.
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(or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140
under Order No. PTB-1207-131.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in
better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number
listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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